IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 9, 11, 13-15, 19, 26, 28, 30-31, 33, 34, 42, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 61, 63, 65, 66, 68-73, 75, 77, and 79 as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of script usage in an interactive television system comprising:

~~storing an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a television program;~~

executing an interactive television application, wherein said interactive application is configured to provide ~~two or more levels of~~ added content;

providing an opportunity for the display of added content, wherein provision of said added content is configured to be triggered by one or more user selections;

executing a script which generates one or more automatic selections associated with the opportunity, ~~and based on said indication, said automatic selections~~ the automatic selections comprising input to the interactive application that triggers provision of said added content, the input being input that would otherwise be received responsive to a viewer's active interaction;

~~generating one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity and based on said indication, said generating comprising executing a script, wherein provision of said desired level of added content is triggered by said one or more automatic selections instead of said one or more user selections;~~ and

providing said ~~desired level of~~ added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

conveying said script from a network communications operator;

receiving said script; and

executing said script.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving said program, said added content, and said script at a receiver;

storing said program, said added content, and said script on a non-volatile storage device coupled to said receiver; and

retrieving said program, added content, and said script from said non-volatile storage device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said network communications operator receives said interactive application and said script from a head-end.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said head-end comprises a television broadcaster.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said head-end comprises a web content provider.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said script is configured to provide at least one of said one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity at a predetermined time.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said added content is pushed content.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said interactive application is configured to retrieve either ~~determine whether~~ said one or more automatic selections or said one or more user selections from ~~exist by accessing~~ said message queue.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~added content is provided to a display device or a recording device~~ script is dynamically created in a user set top box based on user preferences.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
    indicating default script usage preferences; and
    storing said preferences.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said script is configured to simulate one or more user selections~~ further comprising:
    identifying a particular future program;
    associating one or more script usage preferences with the identified program; and
    storing said preferences.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said script is downloaded and said input to the interactive application is not included in said script.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a receiver is configured to:
    dynamically create said script ~~is dynamically created~~; and
    execute said script to generate said one or more automatic selections.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
    detecting said opportunity exists; and
    providing said one or more automatic selections in response to detecting said
        opportunity exists.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in a message queue.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in said queue in a repeated manner.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable to:

~~store an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a television program;~~

execute an interactive application, wherein said interactive application is configured to provide ~~two or more levels of said~~ added content;

provide an opportunity for the display of added content, wherein provision of said added content is configured to be triggered by one or more user selections~~;~~ ~~and;~~

execute a script which generates ~~generate~~ one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity~~, and based on said indication, wherein~~ ~~generating said automatic selections comprises executing a script, wherein~~ the automatic selections comprising input to the interactive application that triggers provision of said ~~desired level of~~ added content ~~is triggered~~ ~~by said one or more automatic selections instead of said one or more user~~ ~~selections,~~ the input being input that would otherwise be received responsive to a viewer's active interaction~~;~~ and

provide said ~~desired level of~~ added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said carrier medium is configured to convey said script from a network communications operator to a receiver, wherein said script is subsequently executed.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein said network communications operator receives said script from a head-end via a second carrier medium.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said head-end comprises a television broadcaster.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said head-end comprises a web content provider.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said script is configured to provide at least one of said one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity at a predetermined time.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said added content is pushed content.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein said interactive application is configured to <u>retrieve either</u> ~~determine whether~~ said one or more automatic selections <u>or said one or more user selections from</u> ~~exist by accessing~~ said message queue.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said ~~added content is provided to either a display device or a recording device~~ <u>script is dynamically created in a user set top box based on user preferences</u>.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein said receiver is configurable to receive an indication of a default script usage preference and is further configured to store said preference.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said script is downloaded <u>and said input to the interactive application is not included in said script</u>.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein a
receiver is configured to:
    dynamically create said script is dynamically created; and
    execute said script to generate said one or more automatic selections.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said
script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in a message
queue.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said
script is configured to simulate one or more user selectionsfurther comprising:
    identifying a particular future program;
    associating one or more script usage preferences with the identified program; and
    storing said preferences.

34. (Currently Amended) A script usage device comprising:

    a signal receiver, wherein said signal receiver is configured to receive a
        programming signal; and

    a script usage mechanism coupled to said receiver, wherein said script usage
        mechanism is configured to:
        store an indication of a desired level of added content to display during
            display of a television program;
        execute an interactive application, wherein said interactive application is
            configured to provide two or more levels of said added content;
        provide an opportunity for the display of added content, wherein provision
            of said added content is configured to be triggered by one or more
            user selections;

executing a script which generates ~~generate~~ one or more automatic
selections associated with said opportunity~~, and based on said
indication, wherein generating said automatic selections comprises
executing a script, wherein~~ the automatic selections comprising
input to the interactive application that triggers provision of said
~~desired level of~~ added content ~~is triggered by said one or more
automatic selections instead of said one or more user selections~~,
the input being input that would otherwise be received responsive
to a viewer's active interaction; and

provide said ~~desired level of~~ added content for display in response to
detecting said automatic selections.

35. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said receiver is configured to
receive said script from a network communications operator, and wherein said script
usage mechanism is configured to subsequently execute said script.

36. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said script usage device is
further configured to:

receive said program, said added content, and said script;
store said program, said added content, and said script on a non-volatile storage
device coupled to said script usage device; and
retrieve said program, added content, and said script from said non-volatile
storage device.

37. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said network
communications operator is configured to receive said script from a head-end.

38. (Original) The script usage device of claim 37, wherein said head-end comprises a
television broadcaster.

39. (Original) The script usage device of claim 37, wherein said head-end comprises a web content provider.

40. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 35, wherein said script is configured to provide at least one of said one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity at a predetermined time.

41. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said added content is pushed content.

42. (Currently Amended) The script usage device of claim 48, wherein said interactive application is configured to <u>retrieve either</u> ~~determine whether~~ said one or more automatic selections <u>or said one or more user selections from</u> ~~exist by accessing~~ said message queue.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Currently Amended) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said ~~added content is provided to either a display device or a recording device~~ <u>script is dynamically created in a user set top box based on user preferences</u>.

45. (Original) The script usage device of claim 35, wherein said script usage mechanism is configurable to receive an indication of a default script usage preference and is further configured to store said preference.

46. (Currently Amended) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said script is downloaded <u>and said input to the interactive application is not included in said script</u>.

47. (Currently Amended) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein <u>a receiver is configured to:</u>
    <u>dynamically create</u> said script ~~is dynamically created; and~~

execute said script to generate said one or more automatic selections.

48. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in a message queue.

49. (Currently Amended) The script usage device of claim 34, ~~wherein said script is configured to simulate one or more user selections~~ further comprising:
　　identifying a particular future program;
　　associating one or more script usage preferences with the identified program; and
　　storing said preferences.

50. (Currently Amended) A system for automating user input in an interactive television system comprising:

　　a first source configured to convey an interactive application to a receiver;

　　a second source configured to convey added content to said receiver; and

　　a receiver coupled to said first source and said second source, wherein said receiver is configured to:
　　　　~~store an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a program;~~
　　　　execute said interactive application, wherein said interactive application is configured to provide ~~two or more levels of said~~ added content;
　　　　provide an opportunity for the display of added content, wherein provision of said added content is configured to be triggered by one or more user selections;
　　　　executing a script which generates ~~generate~~ one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity~~, and based on said indication, wherein generating said automatic selections comprises executing a script, wherein~~ the automatic selections comprising

input to the interactive application that triggers provision of said ~~desired level of~~ added content ~~is triggered by said one or more automatic selections instead of said one or more user selections,~~ the input being input that would otherwise be received responsive to a viewer's active interaction; and

provide said ~~desired level of~~ added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections.

51. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein an opportunity to provide said added content is provided by said interactive application executing within said receiver.

52. (Original) The system of claim 50, further comprising a non-volatile storage device, wherein said receiver is further configured to:

receive said added content, said script, and a program corresponding to said added content and said script;

store said program, said added content, and said script on said non-volatile storage device; and

retrieve said program, added content, and said script from said non-volatile storage device.

53. (Original) The system of claim 51, wherein said first source comprises a network communications operator.

54. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein said second source comprises a network communications operator.

55. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein said second source comprises a web content provider.

56. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein said network communications operator is configured to receive said script from a head-end.

57. (Original) The system of claim 56, wherein said head-end comprises a television broadcaster.

58. (Original) The system of claim 56, wherein said head-end comprises a web content provider.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is configured to provide at least one of said one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity at a predetermined time.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said added content is pushed content.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 67, wherein said interactive application is configured to <u>retrieve either</u> ~~determine whether~~ said one or more automatic selections <u>or said one or more user selections from</u> ~~exist by accessing~~ said message queue.

62. (Cancelled).

63. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein said added ~~content is provided to either a display device or a recording device~~ <u>script is dynamically created in a user set top box based on user preferences</u>.

64. (Original) The system of claim 51, wherein said receiver is configurable to receive an indication of a default script usage preference and is further configured to store said preference.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is downloaded <u>and said input to the interactive application is not included in said script</u>.

66. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein a receiver is configured to: dynamically create said script is dynamically created; and execute said script to generate said one or more automatic selections.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in a message queue.

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is configured to simulate one or more user selectionsfurther comprising:
identifying a particular future program;
associating one or more script usage preferences with the identified program; and
storing said preferences.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 173, wherein said levels of added content comprise increasing levels of detail.

70. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 1975, wherein said levels of added content comprise increasing levels of detail.

71. (Currently Amended) The script usage device of claim 3477, wherein said levels of added content comprise increasing levels of detail.

72. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5079, wherein said levels of added content comprise increasing levels of detail.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content, the method further comprising:
storing an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a television program, wherein said automatic selections are based on

said indication and said indication is not associated with any particular

added content; and

providing said desired level of added content for display in response to detecting

said automatic selections.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said indication is applicable
to all applications which provide an opportunity for display of said desired level of
added content.

75. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said
interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content,
the method further comprising:

storing an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display

of a television program, wherein said automatic selections are based on

said indication and said indication is not associated with any particular

added content; and

providing said desired level of added content for display in response to detecting

said automatic selections.

76. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 75, wherein said
indication is applicable to all applications which provide an opportunity for display of
said desired level of added content.

77. (Currently Amended) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said interactive
application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content, the method
further comprising:

storing an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display

of a television program, wherein said automatic selections are based on

said indication and said indication is not associated with any particular

added content; and

provding said desired level of added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections.

78. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 77, wherein said indication is applicable to all applications which provide an opportunity for display of said desired level of added content.

79. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content, the method further comprising:

storing an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a television program, wherein said automatic selections are based on said indication and said indication is not associated with any particular added content; and

providing said desired level of added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections.

80. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, wherein said indication is applicable to all applications which provide an opportunity for display of said desired level of added content.